

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,829,321 to Domenico. Applicant will argue the inapplicability of this rejection to the amended claims.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other features, a safety knife comprising a handle, a base arm, an extension arm, and a cutting device, wherein “the handle of the safety knife has a longitudinal center axis which intersects the opening in which the cutting device is arranged.” This feature is clearly shown in current Figures 1-4. To illustrate this feature, applicant encloses Exhibit A wherein the longitudinal center axis of the handle has been added to the figures for illustration sake. This feature provides specific advantages. In the cutting operation, the direction of the pulling force in the cutting opening of the knife coincides with the pulling force applied by the person using the knife. This provides for improved cutting.

Domenico discloses a safety knife. However, the longitudinal center axis of the handle 12 of the Domenico safety knife does not intersect the opening 18 which contains the cutting blades 50, 52. As shown in Exhibit B, the longitudinal center axis of the handle in Domenico is offset by a distance “a” from intersecting the opening 18. Thus, the handle in the safety knife in Domenic does not have a longitudinal center axis which intersects the opening in which the cutting device is arranged as is claimed in claim 1. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 are not anticipated by Domenico for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domenico in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,640,445 to Crawford. It is respectfully submitted that Crawford does not overcome the deficiencies of Domenico as described above. Thus, dependent claim 6 is allowable over Domenico and Crawford for at least the reasons set forth above.

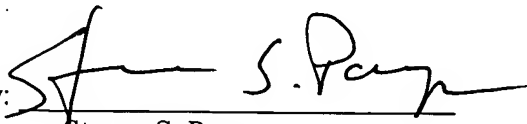
Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,673,687 to Phillips et al. Applicant will argue the inapplicability of this rejection to the amended claim 7.

Claim 7 recites, among other features, a safety knife comprising a handle, a base arm, an extension arm, and a cutting device, wherein the “the handle of the safety knife has a longitudinal center axis which intersects the opening in which the cutting device is arranged.” Phillips et al. discloses a safety knife 10. However, the longitudinal center axis of the handle 12 of the safety knife 10 does not intersect the opening which contains the cutting device as is illustrated in Exhibit C. Indeed, the longitudinal center axis of the handle 12 angles greatly away from the knife in general and does not come even close to the opening containing the cutting device. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is not anticipated by Phillips et al. for at least the reasons set forth above.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is earnestly solicited. If the examiner thinks that that a telephone conference would be beneficial, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 13, 2009

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1. (currently amended) A safety knife for cutting lines or straps comprising a handle, a base arm, an extension arm, and a cutting device, wherein said extension arm curves from said base arm to establish an opening between said base arm and said extension arm, wherein said cutting device is arranged in said opening, and
5 wherein ~~a longitudinal direction of the base arm is angled in relation to a longitudinal direction of the handle~~ the handle of the safety knife has a longitudinal center axis which intersects the opening in which the cutting device is arranged.

2. (currently amended) The safety knife according to claim 1, wherein said
10 cutting ~~arrangement~~ device comprises two cutting elements arranged in said opening between said base arm and said extension arm, and wherein said two cutting elements form substantially a V-shape.

3. (previously presented) The safety knife according to claim 2, wherein
15 said handle comprises at least one aperture for holding said safety knife.

4. (previously presented) The safety knife according to claim 3, wherein said handle comprises an aperture for attaching a strap for holding the safety knife.

20 5. (previously presented) The safety knife according to claim 4, wherein said handle comprises at least one projection for holding said safety knife.

6. (previously presented) The safety knife according to claim 5, further comprising a float, where said float is incorporated in or attached to said handle.

7. (currently amended) A safety knife for cutting lines or straps

5 comprising a handle, a base arm, an extension arm, and a cutting device, wherein said extension arm curves from said base arm to establish an opening between said base arm and said extension arm, wherein said cutting device is arranged in said opening, and wherein ~~a longitudinal direction of the base arm is angled in relation to a longitudinal direction of the handle~~ the handle of the safety knife has a longitudinal center axis

10 which intersects the opening in which the cutting device is arranged, said cutting ~~arrangement~~ device comprises two cutting elements arranged in said opening between said base arm and said extension arm, and wherein said two cutting elements form substantially a V-shape, wherein said handle comprises at least one aperture for holding said safety knife, said handle further comprising an aperture for attaching a strap for

15 holding the safety knife, and wherein said handle comprises at least one projection for holding said safety knife.

Claims 8-20 are cancelled.

Exhibit A1

Hanson (invention)

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Fig. 1

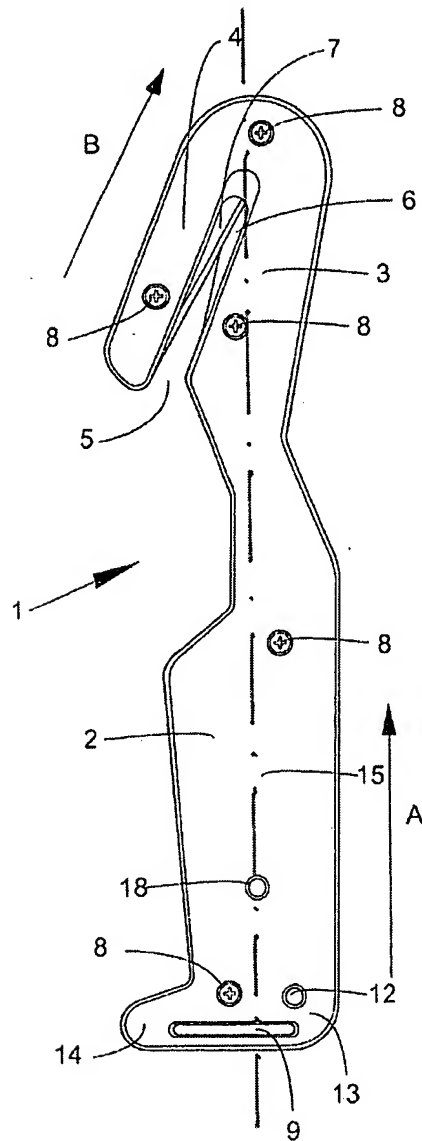
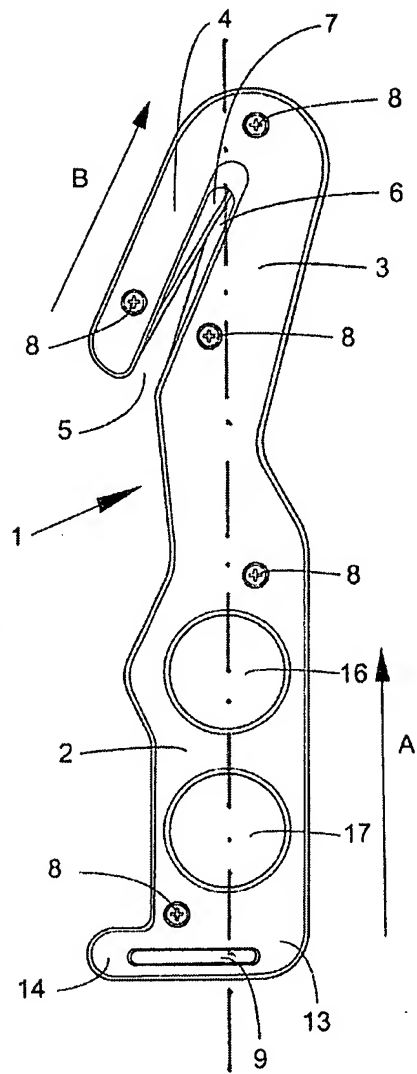
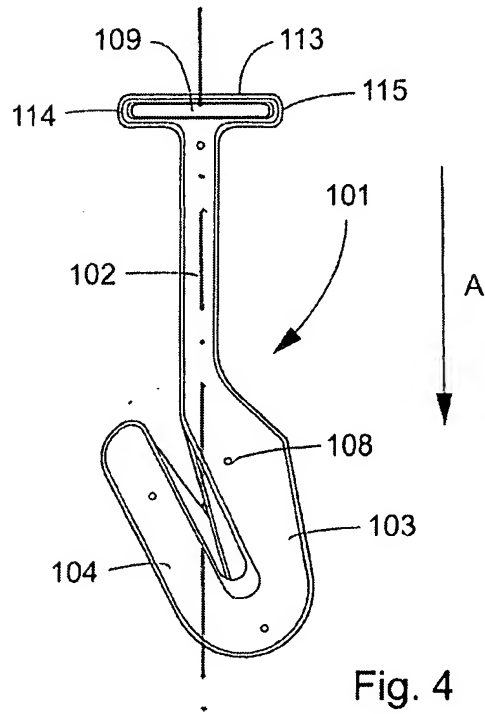
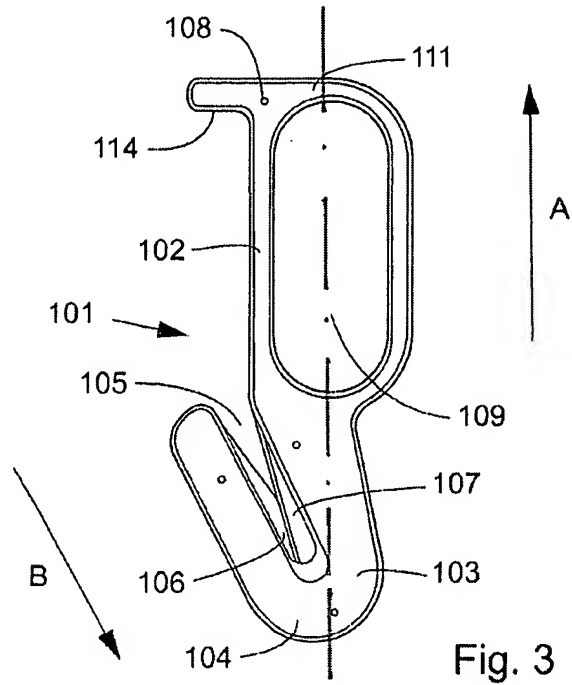


Fig. 2





U.S. Patent

Nov. 3, 1998

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5,829,321

a = offset

Fig. 1

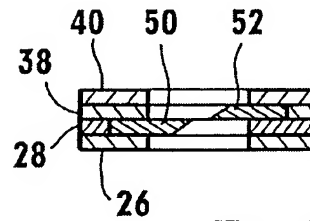
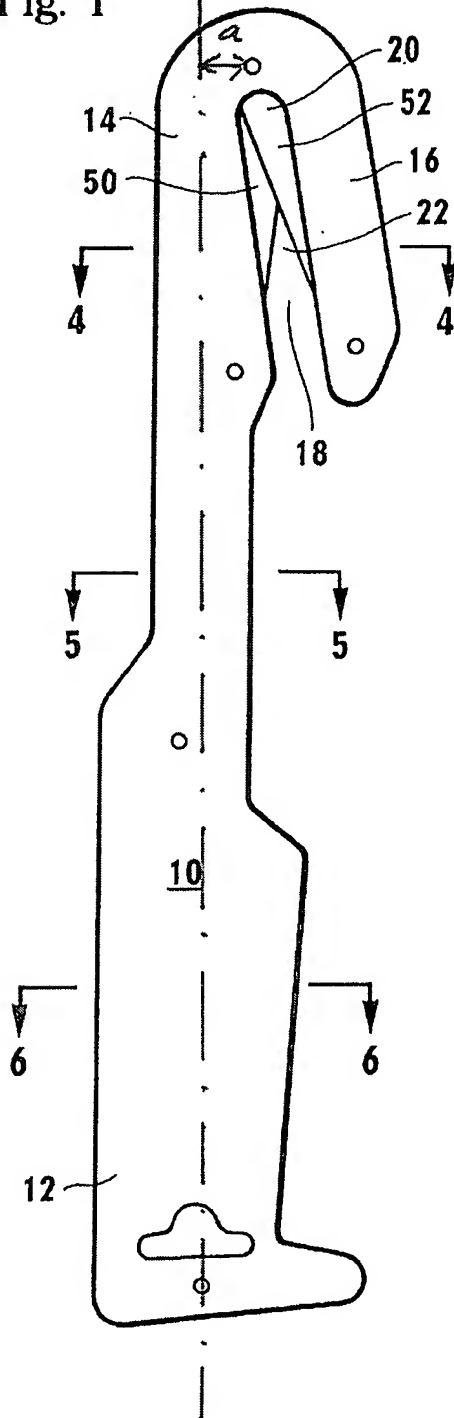


Fig. 2

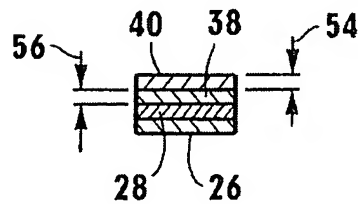


Fig. 3

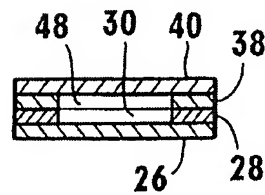


Fig. 4

Exhibit C

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FIG. 1

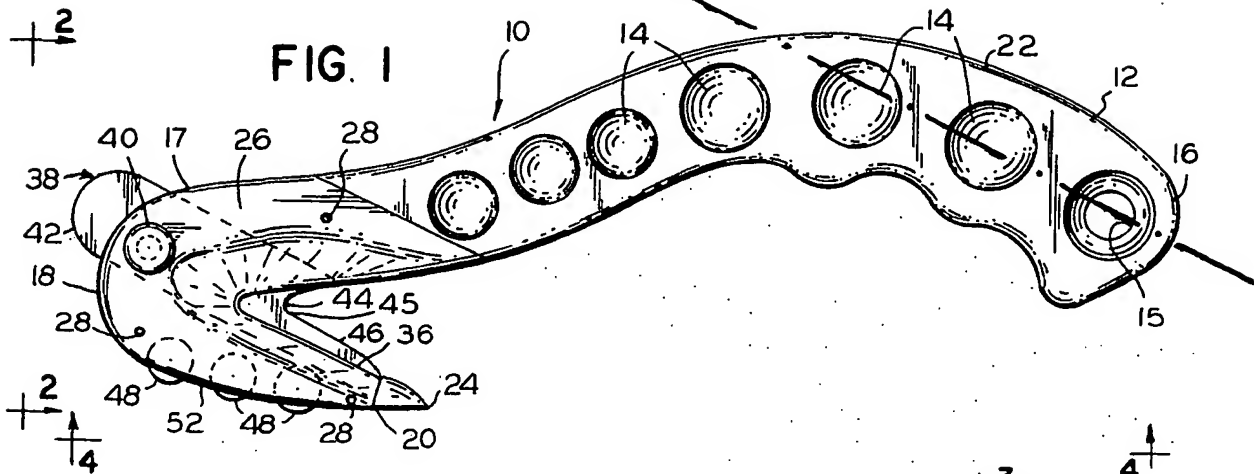
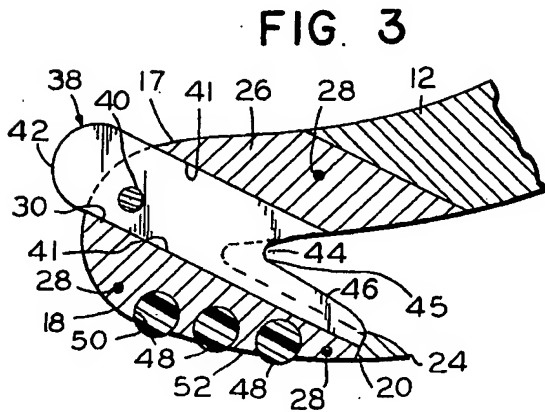


FIG. 3



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4

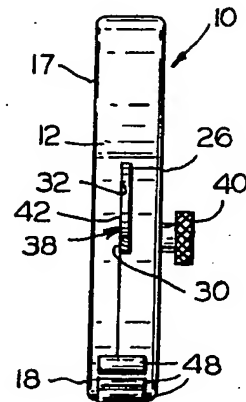
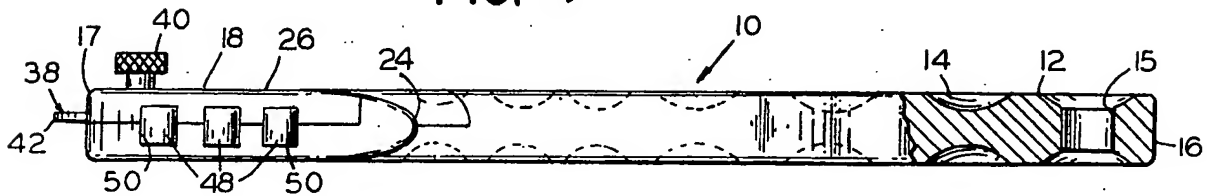


FIG. 2

FIG. 4



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